

V. REMARKS

Entry of the Amendment is proper under 37 C.F.R. §1.116 because the Amendment: a) places the application in condition for allowance for the reasons discussed herein; b) does not raise any new issue requiring further search and/or consideration because the Amendment amplifies issues previously discussed throughout prosecution; c) does not present any additional claims without canceling a corresponding number of finally rejected claims; and d) places the application in better form for appeal, should an Appeal be necessary. The Amendment is necessary and was not earlier presented because it is made in response to arguments raised in the final rejection. The amendments to the subject claims do not incorporate any new subject matter into the claims. Thus, entry of the Amendment is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 6, 10 and 18-20 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as anticipated by the Ives (U.S. Patent No. 4,239,580). The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Ives teaches an apparatus for applying a liquid saturated fabric to a surface that includes a frame, a subframe, a first set of generally axially aligned applicator rolls, a first mounting device, a second mounting device and a vibrator device. The frame includes a holder/dispenser device for holding and dispensing a roll of fabric, an impregnating device for saturating the fabric with a liquid, and a dispenser for dispensing the fabric from the roll of fabric to the impregnating device. The first mounting device mounts the applicator rolls for rotational movement on the subframe. The applicator rolls are serially coupled to each other and to the subframe by flexible axles generally coaxially aligned with the applicator rolls. The flexible axles allow the applicator rolls to move transversely relative to the axes of the applicator rolls. The second mounting device mounts the subframe on the frame for swinging movement about an axis generally parallel to the axes of the applicator rolls. The applicator rolls are adapted to receive the fabric from the impregnating device and are adapted to apply the fabric to the surface as the frame moves relative to the surface. The vibrator

device is affixed directly to each of the applicator rolls for vibrating the applicator rolls in a direction transverse to the axes of the applicator rolls.

Claim 1, as amended, is directed to an adhesive tape applying method for placing an applicator member in contact with a surface of adhesive tape and applying the adhesive tape to a first surface of a semiconductor wafer workpiece with a second surface of the semiconductor wafer workpiece disposed opposite the first surface being held by suction holding means. Claim 1 recites that the method includes a step of applying the adhesive tape to the first surface of the semiconductor wafer workpiece while the semiconductor wafer workpiece is being held at the second surface by suction via the suction holding means, while holding the adhesive tape between the applicator member and the suction holding means and moving the applicator member and the suction holding means relative to each other, and while vibrating the adhesive tape.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 1 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach a semiconductor wafer workpiece and suction holding means. As a result, it follows that the applied art also fails to teach a step of applying an adhesive tape to a first surface of the semiconductor wafer workpiece while the semiconductor wafer workpiece is being held at a second surface by suction via the suction holding means. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that claim 1 is allowable over the applied art.

Claim 10, as amended, is directed to an adhesive tape applying apparatus for applying adhesive tape to a first surface of a semiconductor wafer workpiece with the semiconductor wafer piece having a second surface disposed opposite the first surface. Claim 10 recited that the apparatus includes suction holding means, tape feed means, applying means and first vibration generating means. Claim 10 recites that the suction holding means receives the semiconductor wafer workpiece and holds the semiconductor wafer workpiece at the second surface and tape feed means feeds the adhesive tape toward the semiconductor wafer workpiece held by the suction holding means. Claim 10 for the recites that the applying means places an applicator member in contact with a surface of the

adhesive tape and applies the adhesive tape to the first surface of the semiconductor wafer workpiece and the first vibration generating means vibrates the applying means. Additionally, claim 10 recites that the adhesive tape is applied to the first surface of the semiconductor wafer workpiece being held at the second surface by the suction holding means while the adhesive tape is held between the applying means and the suction holding means moved relative to each other and while the adhesive tape is vibrated by the first vibration generating means.

It is respectfully submitted that the rejection is improper because the applied art fails to teach each element of claim 10 as amended. Specifically, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach an adhesive tape applying apparatus for applying adhesive tape to a first surface of a semiconductor wafer workpiece with the semiconductor wafer piece having a second surface disposed opposite the first surface. Additionally, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art also fails to teach suction holding means that receives the semiconductor wafer workpiece and holds the semiconductor wafer workpiece at the second surface and tape feed means that feeds the adhesive tape toward the semiconductor wafer workpiece held by the suction holding means.

Furthermore, it is respectfully submitted that the applied art fails to teach that the adhesive tape is applied to the first surface of the semiconductor wafer workpiece being held at the second surface by the suction holding means. As a result, it is respectfully submitted that claim 10 is allowable over the applied art.

Claims 2, 3, and 6 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Claims 18-20 depend from claim 10 and include all of the features of claim 10. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

Claims 4, 5, 7-9, 11-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as unpatentable over Ives. The rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 4, 5 and 7-9 depend from claim 1 and include all of the features of claim 1. Claims 11-17 depend from claim 10 and include all of the features of claim 10. Thus, it is respectfully submitted that the dependent claims are allowable at least for the reasons the independent claims are allowable as well as for the features they recite.

Withdrawal of the rejection is respectfully requested.

The drawing figures are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83 (a). The attached Replacement Sheet(s) of Drawings obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

The specification is objected to because of informalities. The specification is amended to obviate the objection. Withdrawal of the objection is respectfully requested.

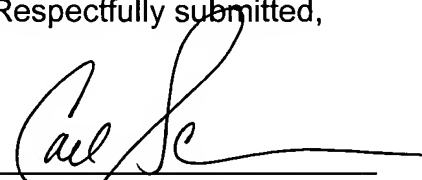
In view of the foregoing, reconsideration of the application and allowance of the pending claims are respectfully requested. Should the Examiner believe anything further is desirable in order to place the application in even better condition for allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' representative at the telephone number listed below.

Should additional fees be necessary in connection with the filing of this paper or if a Petition for Extension of Time is required for timely acceptance of the same, the Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 18-0013 for any such fees and Applicant(s) hereby petition for such extension of time.

Respectfully submitted,

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Enclosure(s): Amendment Transmittal

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